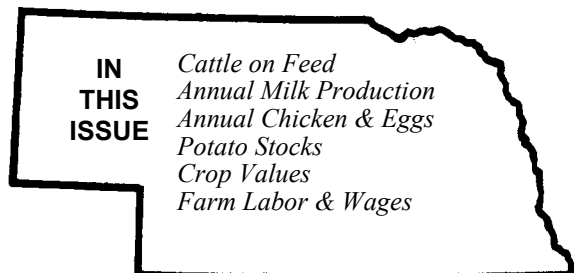


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Dear producers and other data users:

Information contained herein is the result of mail, phone and personal interview surveys conducted during the past few weeks. Special recognition and appreciation are extended to all producers and agribusinesses who provided data making these reports possible.

William G. Hamlin
State Statistician

Nebraska Cattle on Feed Down 3 Percent

Nebraska feedlots with capacities of 1,000 or more head contained 2.22 million cattle on feed on February 1, down 3 percent from last year and 9 percent below February 1, 2001. Placements of cattle into feedlots during January totaled 480,000 head, down 2 percent from 2002 but equal to 2001. Fed cattle marketings for the month of January totaled 390,000 head, down 4 percent from last year and 9 percent below January two years ago. Other disappearance during January totaled 10,000 head compared with 25,000 head during January 2002 and 20,000 head during January 2001.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Down 8 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.7 million head on February 1, 2003. The inventory was 8 percent below February 1, 2002 and 11 percent below February 1, 2001. Placements in feedlots during January totaled 2.14 million, 2 percent below 2002 and 6 percent below 2001. Marketings of fed cattle during January totaled 1.97 million, down 5 percent from 2002 and down 4 percent from 2001. Other disappearance totaled 75,000 during January, 16 percent below 2002 and 4 percent below 2001.

Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed, Placements, Marketings and Other Disappearance, 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots, by Month, State, and United States, 2002-2003

State	February 1 Number on Feed ¹			January Placements			January Marketings			January Other Disappearance ²		
	2002	2003	<u>2003</u> 2002	2002	2003	<u>2003</u> 2002	2002	2003	<u>2003</u> 2002	2002	2003	<u>2003</u> 2002
	1,000 Head	Percent		1,000 Head	Percent		1,000 Head	Percent		1,000 Head	Percent	
Arizona	311	291	94	32	29	91	25	24	96	1	3	300
California	475	475	100	59	58	98	57	67	118	7	6	86
Colorado	1,180	1,030	87	225	235	104	215	215	100	10	10	100
Idaho	320	285	89	57	56	98	65	65	100	2	1	50
Iowa	395	360	91	91	69	76	50	62	124	1	2	200
Kansas	2,450	2,220	91	530	540	102	540	500	93	20	20	100
Nebraska	2,290	2,220	97	490	480	98	405	390	96	25	10	40
New Mexico	109	112	103	11	8	73	9	14	156	1	1	100
Oklahoma	350	325	93	67	46	69	74	49	66	3	2	67
So. Dakota	200	215	108	46	53	115	38	42	111	3	1	33
Texas	2,850	2,630	92	480	450	94	500	435	87	10	15	150
Washington	237	180	76	41	36	88	50	39	78	1	2	200
Other States	405	340	84	50	75	150	55	68	124	5	2	40
United States	11,572	10,683	92	2,179	2,135	98	2,083	1,970	95	89	75	84

¹ Cattle and calves on feed are animals for slaughter market being fed a ration of grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better.

² Includes death losses, movement from feedlots to pastures and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.

Source: USDA NASS Cattle on Feed, February 1, 2003.

Milk Cows and Production: Number and Milk Produced by Quarter, Nebraska and United States, 2001-2002

State and Month	Milk Cows		Production per Cow		Production	
	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
	<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Pounds</i>		<i>Million Pounds</i>	
Nebraska						
January - March	75	68	4,080	4,397	306	299
April - June	73	67	4,137	4,448	302	298
July - September	70	67	3,926	4,224	275	283
October - December	69	66	4,101	4,394	283	290
Annual	72	67	16,194	17,463	1,166	1,170
United States - Annual	9,114	9,141	18,159	18,571	165,497	169,758

Source: USDA NASS Milk Production, February 14, 2003.

Chickens: Inventory By Type, Nebraska and United States, December 1, 2001-2002

Item	Nebraska			United States		
	2001	2002	2002/2001	2001	2002	2002/2001
	<i>Thousands</i>		<i>Percent</i>	<i>Thousands</i>		<i>Percent</i>
All Chickens	13,704	13,679	100	441,509	438,948	99
Hens & Pullets Laying Age	11,494	11,468	100	338,628	337,213	100
Pullets 13 weeks and older but less than 20 weeks	539	963	179	42,807	39,679	93
Pullet chicks and pullets under 13 weeks of age	1,671	1,248	75	51,948	53,706	103
Other chickens	0	0		8,126	8,350	103

Source: USDA NASS Chickens and Eggs 2002 Summary, January 2003.

Eggs: Production, Average Number and Eggs per Layer, Nebraska and United States 2001-2002

Item	Nebraska		United States	
	2001	2002	2001	2002
Eggs Produced (<i>million</i>)	3,001	2,977	85,745	86,698
Average Number of Layers (<i>thousand</i>)	11,650	11,591	335,012	337,202
Eggs per Layer (<i>number</i>)	258	257	256	257

Source: USDA NASS Chickens and Eggs 2002 Summary, January 2003.

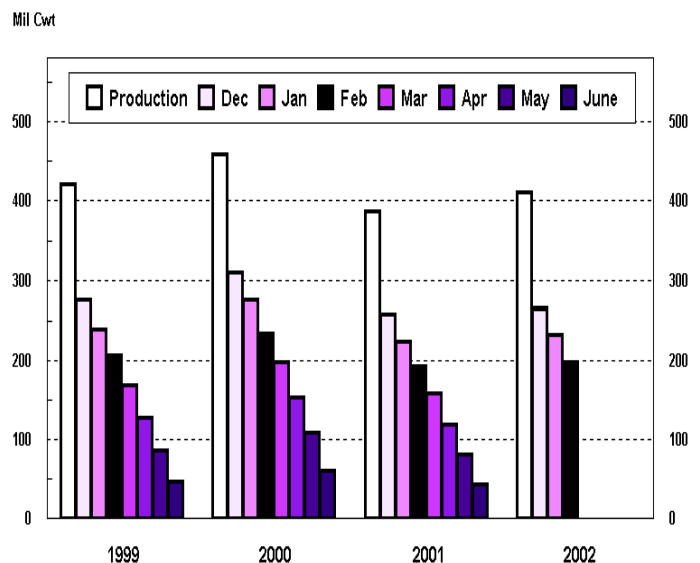
Potato Stocks

Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks, 15 Selected States, February 1, 2003

State	Production	Total Stocks Feb. 1, 2003
	<i>Thousand Cwt.</i>	
California	4,450	1,300
Colorado	27,885	15,000
Idaho	133,385	72,500
Maine	16,960	9,500
Michigan	13,878	5,500
Minnesota	18,700	9,100
Montana	3,224	2,900
NEBRASKA	8,611	3,900
New York	5,500	1,100
North Dakota	23,460	11,200
Ohio	1,008	120
Oregon	24,936	12,000
Pennsylvania	2,590	850
Washington	95,200	40,000
Wisconsin	31,125	12,500
Total 15 States	410,912	197,470

Source: USDA NASS Potato Stocks, February 14, 2003.

Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks 15 Storage States



Production by crop year. Stocks by months following harvest.

Crop Summary: Marketing Year Average Price and Value of Production, Nebraska and United States, 2000-2002

Crop	Prod. Unit	Price			Value of Production		
		2000	2001	2002	2000	2001	2002
		Dollars			1,000 Dollars		
Nebraska							
Corn for Grain	Bushels	1.90	1.94	2.40	1,927,170	2,210,145	2,257,920
Sorghum for Grain	Cwt.	3.28	3.23	4.45	64,400	64,574	37,380
Oats	Bushels	1.42	1.59	1.95	2,684	5,819	4,612
Barley	Bushels	1.60	1.65	1.80	216	297	387
All Wheat	Bushels	2.61	2.75	3.70	155,034	162,800	179,968
Winter Wheat	Bushels	2.61	2.75	3.70	155,034	162,800	179,968
Soybeans	Bushels	4.44	4.19	5.35	771,894	934,161	943,366
Dry Edible Beans	Cwt.	15.80	18.50	19.20	51,034	58,923	66,528
All Hay (baled)	Ton	69.50	70.50	85.50	416,103	519,957	502,325
Alfalfa Hay (baled)	Ton	71.50	71.50	86.50	299,228	368,082	350,325
All Other Hay (baled)	Ton	62.50	62.50	80.00	116,875	151,875	152,000
All Potatoes	Cwt.	4.85	6.60	5.95	49,116	55,440	51,235
Sugar Beets	Ton	29.20	36.90		32,470	30,996	
Sunflower (all)	Cwt.	8.50	9.20	12.40	5,491	7,785	3,041
Sunflower (oil)	Cwt.	6.80	8.10	12.00	2,866	4,050	2,040
Sunflower (non-oil)	Cwt.	11.60	11.20	13.00	2,625	3,735	1,001
United States							
Corn for Grain	Bushels	1.85	1.97	2.35	18,499,002	18,888,389	21,213,159
Sorghum for Grain	Cwt.	3.37	3.46	4.30	847,075	979,794	883,690
Oats	Bushels	1.10	1.59	1.75	175,797	195,711	211,849
Barley	Bushels	2.11	2.22	2.70	649,130	536,582	596,759
All Wheat	Bushels	2.62	2.78	3.60	5,782,107	5,440,217	5,863,378
Winter Wheat	Bushels	2.51	2.72	3.45	3,893,961	3,684,817	3,939,217
Soybeans	Bushels	4.54	4.38	5.40	12,466,572	12,605,717	14,755,470
Dry Edible Beans	Cwt.	15.50	22.10	17.00	413,986	426,475	519,609
All Hay (baled)	Ton	84.60	96.50	94.00	11,416,651	12,602,534	12,432,729
Alfalfa Hay (baled)	Ton	88.90	104.00	102.00	6,707,454	7,524,869	7,172,182
All Other Hay (baled)	Ton	70.90	73.30	74.20	4,709,197	5,077,665	5,260,547
All Potatoes	Cwt.	5.08	6.99	6.82	2,591,091	3,057,573	3,151,178
Sugar Beets	Ton	34.20	39.80		1,113,030	1,025,306	
Sunflower (all)	Cwt.	6.89	9.62	12.70	246,869	325,950	317,244
Sunflower (oil)	Cwt.	5.89	9.07	12.40	175,306	254,705	259,365
Sunflower (non-oil)	Cwt.	11.20	11.60	13.70	71,563	71,245	57,879

Note: All prices in this report are marketing year average prices which do not include allowances or adjustments for commodities under government loan at the end of the marketing year; commodities forfeited to the Commodity Credit Corporation, loan deficiency payments, direct and counter cyclical payments or disaster payments.

Source: USDA NASS Crop Values 2002 Summary, February 2003.

2002 county data for wheat and oats is now available at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov:81/ipedb/>

2002 county data for corn, soybeans, sorghum, and sunflowers will be available after February 28.

Hired Workers Down 1 Percent, Wage Rates Up 4 Percent From a Year Ago

There were 884,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches the week of January 12-18, 2003, down 1 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 724,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees working on farms and ranches made up the remaining 160,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.32 per hour during the January 2003 reference week, up 35 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.29 per hour, up 4 cents from last January. Livestock workers earned \$8.91 per hour compared with \$8.20 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate at \$8.50 per hour

was up 27 cents from last year. Number of hours worked averaged 37.8 hours for hired workers during the survey week compared with 38.5 hours a year ago. The largest decreases in number of hired farm workers from at year ago were in Southern Plains (Oklahoma and Texas), Northeast II (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania), Mountain I (Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming) and Corn Belt I (Indiana, Illinois, and Ohio) regions.

The largest increases in number of hired farm workers over last year occurred in California, Florida, and in the Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia) and Lake (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin) regions.

Farm Labor: Number and Wage Rates for Type of Workers and All Hired Workers, Selected Regions and United States, January 6-12, 2002 & January 12-18, 2003 ¹

Region ²	Hired Workers		Wage Rates							
			All Hired Workers		Type of work					
					Field		Livestock		Field & Livestock	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	<i>Thousands</i>		<i>Dollars per hour</i>							
Lake	38	45	9.91	10.54	10.22	10.51	8.26	9.44	8.94	9.65
Cornbelt I	30	23	9.75	9.72	9.03	9.68	9.22	8.64	9.15	9.01
Cornbelt II	24	20	9.74	9.50	8.62	9.24	9.41	9.01	9.26	9.08
Northern Plains	28	23	9.00	10.00	8.34	9.18	8.41	9.43	8.39	9.37
Southern Plains	61	50	8.05	8.85	7.82	8.13	7.37	8.51	7.57	8.29
Mountain I	18	10	8.34	8.53	8.02	8.51	7.74	8.17	7.81	8.25
Mountain II	17	20	9.15	9.66	8.54	9.15	8.48	8.73	8.51	8.85
United States	707	724	8.97	9.32	8.25	8.29	8.20	8.91	8.23	8.50

¹ Excludes agricultural service workers.

² Regions consist of the following: Lake: Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin; Cornbelt I: Illinois, Indiana, Ohio; Cornbelt II: Iowa, Missouri; Northern Plains: Kansas, NEBRASKA, North Dakota, South Dakota; Southern Plains: Oklahoma, Texas; Mountain I: Idaho, Montana, Wyoming; Mountain II: Colorado, Nevada, Utah.

Source: USDA NASS Farm Labor, February 21, 2003.

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